



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

August 3, 2009

Frank Roberts, Zone Planner  
Thorne Bay Ranger District  
Tongass National Forest  
PO Box 19001  
Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919

**RE: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comments on AFS Logjam  
Timber Sale FEIS/ROD  
EPA Project Number: 05-030-AFS**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The EPA has completed its review of the **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the Logjam Timber Sales project** (CEQ No. 20090217) on the Thorne Bay Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA rated the draft EIS and Proposed Alternative (Alternative 2) as EC-1 (Environmental Concerns-Adequate Information) primarily due to concerns regarding potential impacts to water quality and aquatic and wildlife resources due to road construction. We recommended selection of Alternative 3 or 4. The FEIS and ROD indicate that the Forest Service (FS) has identified Alternative 5 as its Selected Alternative. This alternative includes fewer harvest acres, board-feet, and new and temporary roads than Alternative 2, although substantially more than Alternatives 3 or 4. Modifications were made to the Selected Alternative to allow for work involving roads requiring repair due to acid-rock drainage to be completed before roads would be constructed in those impacted areas. Monitoring will take place to ensure no new acid rock drainage occurs.

EPA continues to be concerned that FS did not select an alternative with less potential for impacts, particularly given the potential for acid rock drainage to negatively impact water quality in certain areas proposed for construction. We do believe, however, that potential impacts are adequately described, and that the proposed mitigation and monitoring, if strictly adhered to, will help to ensure that impacts are minimized. We are also pleased that the selected Alternative does not involve the construction of roads in Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs).

We appreciate the FS's consideration of our comments on the draft EIS and revisions to reflect the delegation of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program

under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act to the State of Alaska. We also appreciate the clarification of FS's work to consult with federally-recognized tribal governments interested in the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the final EIS and ROD. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff at (907) 271-6324 or [curtis.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:curtis.jennifer@epa.gov) with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and  
Sediments Management Unit